

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS the Commander-in-Chief has consented to take the Chair at the annual festival of the Highland Society of London, on Saturday the 21st of March, being the anniversary of the battle of Alexandria, at which the Highland regiments so earnestly distinguished themselves.

We understand that the Committee on Breechloaders have completed their report on the arms that were qualified to compete for the Government prizes. The report will not be published until it shall have been asked for in the Parliament. We believe we are correct, however, in stating that the Henry rifle has acquitted itself best. The committee are now proceeding with the consideration of the more important question of the best arm for adoption in the Service. —*Volunteer Service Gazette*.

**CAPTIVITY AMONG SAVAGES.**—Mr. Rowles, of Perryfield, Maidstone, has received a letter from his son, in Kansas, United States, in which he speaks of a startling adventure he met with among Indians. It would appear that Mr. Rowles' son and three friends, while travelling from Hays to Harker, were attacked by savages, and one of their number was slain. The remaining three were taken prisoners and conducted to the village of their captors. After being under strict restraint for three months they were stripped of their clothes, painted from head to foot, dressed as a warrior of the tribe, and provided with squaws to do their housework. While engaged in hunting, or any other exercise, so that the chances of escape was small. The flesh of wild animals dried in the sun and seldom cooked, formed their food, and they were allowed to wash—as is the custom of their tribe—but once in two moons. The weather becoming cold, the tribe encamped for the winter, and during this period they were visited by traders, who stopped two weeks. When they left, Rowles hid himself in one of their waggons, and managed to get clear off, his two companions being still in captivity.

**INCIDENT OF THE AMERICAN WAR.**—During "Price's raid" in 1864, a skirmish took place on the line of Charlton and Howard Counties, Missouri, some four miles from Glasgow, in which one of the rebels was left on the ground dangerously wounded in the neck. While in this condition, Miss Sarah J. Smith, a school teacher in the vicinity, happened to pass by. Seeing the wounded man, she went to him and staunching his wounds, probably saving his life. She remained with him until near nightfall, when he requested her to leave, as his companions would probably come in the night and take him away. If not, she would find him where he was in the morning, living or dead. He said that he was known by the name of Tucker, but that his real name was H. C. M. Donald was from Louisville, Ky. Next morning M. Donald was gone, and Miss Smith knew nothing concerning him afterward. A few days ago, says the *Glasgow (U.S.) Times*, Miss Smith (who still resides in the neighbourhood) received a letter from the Administrator of H. C. M. Donald, Sr., informing her that she was named in the will of the deceased as legatee of \$50,000, in consideration of her having saved the life of his nephew and only heir, the H. C. M. Donald named in connection with the incident of 1864. This is all the story, and the *Times* indorses its correctness.

## VOLUNTEER INSPECTION

The annual inspection of the Drumbo Volunteer Company No. 7, 38th Brant battalion, came off in the Town Hall—their Drill Shed—on Monday last. There was a full muster of the Company, notwithstanding the unpropitious state of the weather and the heavy roads. When the inspecting Officer, Colonel Villiers arrived at the hall, there were forty-four rank and file present, besides the usual compliment of officers. The men were first put through the number of evolutions by their officers, Capt. Laidlaw, Lieut. Geo. Pathello, drilled, in company, by Lieutenant and Adjutant Spence. All the movements were executed with precision and correctness, at the close of the inspection the men were addressed in a few complimentary remarks by the Lieut. Col., who remarked on the clean, smart and orderly appearance of the Company. He was glad to see that they had made marked progress since he first inspected them along with Colonel Durie; and although not altogether perfect, he paid them the honor of saying that they were as good a specimen of a volunteer force as any he had met with in the Province. After a few words of compliment to Capt. Laidlaw, he adverted to the want of a drill shed in the town, and trusted that the members of the Council (who were present) would not long leave such an important necessity unsupplied, seeing that the men were the very back bone and support of their country, and no one knew how soon their services might be required in these troublous times. He was glad to say that drill sheds (which were useful for many purposes besides military ones) were now erected in almost every locality, and he hoped when he came round again to find Drumbo supplied.

Colonel Patton, of the Battalion, next addressed a few words to the men, and confirmed the laudatory terms in which the inspecting officers had spoken. He was glad to see the Company progress in such a satisfactory way under the able management of Captain Laidlaw and his officers, and he trusted the Company would still continue that high efficiency they displayed so remarkably at Paris two years ago. He also lamented the want of a drill shed in Drumbo, and trusted that something would yet be done by the Council to aid the wishes of the Company and Captain, who he understood was willing himself to purchase a piece of ground for a site.

Dr. Rounds, Deputy Reeve, regretted that at present, owing to the state of the funds, the Council could not see their way to erect a drill shed. Had there been one Company in the township, it might have been different. After some further remarks from the officers present and Capt. Laidlaw, the Company was dismissed.

We may notice that the men wore their smart new scarlet infantry tunics and dark pants with shako, a uniform which we should be sorry to see them deprived of in joining the Brant Battalion. —*Brantford Courier*.

## INSPECTION OF VOLUNTEERS.

Colonel Villiers, Brigade Major of this District, made his semi-annual inspection of the Brantford Volunteers on Monday last. In consequence of the drill shed not having been handed over by the contractor the Companies could not be inspected together,

and the Brigade Major had in consequence to inspect in the respective Company armories. Colonel Villiers was accompanied during his inspection here by Lieutenant Colonel Patton, Major Dickie, and Ass't. Adjutant Spence, and who visited the Companies in rotation, beginning with No. 2 Company, Captain Curtis. The Inspecting Officer was in each instance received with the usual military salute, when the Company was put through all the evolutions to the satisfaction of the Brigade Major, who expressed himself as highly pleased with the manner in which the men had gone through their drill.

Colonel Villiers and staff next visited No. 2 Company under command of Captain Inglis, who exercised the men in all the movements and were closely inspected by the Brigade Major, who addressed Capt. Inglis and the Company, complimenting them on their steadiness and appearance.

The Inspecting Officer then proceeded to the Armory of No. 5 Company, under Command of Captain Lemmon, who put his men through their drill most satisfactorily. This Company made a fine appearance, all their accoutrements being in excellent order,—showing that the men take a pride in their duties. Colonel Villiers addressed the Company as follows:—"Captain Lemmon and men of No. 5 Company, I am highly pleased to see the marked improvement in your drill. On my former visit here the men under your Command were not so well advanced as might be desired; but I must say that the steady drill of your men to night is very creditable,—and their appearance, clean, neat and soldierlike. I am happy to be able to make this statement, and shall report accordingly. You are now furnished with the most expensive arms provided by any Government, and I have no doubt whatever, from your appearance to night and the perfect manner you have gone through your drill, you will give a good account of yourselves if called upon to defend your country. Captain Lemmon, allow me to compliment you as Commander of such a fine body of men. I am sure they do you great credit."

Colonel Villiers then made some remarks concerning the drill shed, and hoped that it would not be long before all the Companies could assemble there for Battalion drill.

Lieut.-Colonel Patton said, in addressing Captain Lemmon and the men under his Command,—"I cannot add anything further to what has just been said by Col. Villiers, in expressing himself so highly pleased with your drill to night. Your appearance is creditable, and the perfect manner in which you acquitted yourselves speaks well for the attention paid to drill instruction and must be a source of pleasure to your zealous and preserving Captain, that his time thus spent in promoting your efficiency in drill has not been lost, taking into account the comparatively short time you have been organized. I am sure your appearance speaks favourably in the event of your being called upon to defend your homes against an invading foe."

Colonel Villiers is a very careful and most efficient Officer, as nothing escapes his attention even to the most minute details, and it is therefore of great service to the Volunteer organization to have such a capable Officer at its head. It is a most responsible position, and one which we think our Government do not fully appreciate the importance of from the emoluments which they attach to the office. This is an oversight which we hope shortly to see remedied.